

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

After the foregoing amendment, claims 2-14 are pending in this application. Claims 2, 5-8, 10, 13 and 14 have been amended. Applicant submits that no new matter has been introduced into the application by these amendments.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner is thanked for indicating that claims 5, 6 and 13 contain allowable subject matter. In response, these claims have been rewritten in independent form to contain all the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Additionally, claim 6 was amended to address the § 112 rejection as noted below.

Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings for failure to show the restoring element as spaced apart from the sealing ring, as was recited in claim 6. Claim 6 has been amended to remove this limitation, and instead specifies that the restoring element is a separate component from the sealing ring, as is shown in Figure 3 and described at paragraph [0030]. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112, First Paragraph

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph for describing the restoring element as "spaced apart" from the sealing ring. Claim 6 has been amended to eliminate the phrase "spaced apart," and instead describes the restoring element as "a separate component" from the sealing ring. This configuration is described at page 7, lines 6-8 of the original specification, and paragraph [0030] of the substitute specification. Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102(b)

Claims 1-4, 7-12 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,056,423 to Lieser. Claim 1 has been cancelled, and the remaining claims have been amended to depend from one of the allowable claims 5, 6, or 13. Accordingly, this rejection has been rendered moot.

Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephone interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this

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Application No.: 10/530,360

application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application, including claims 2-14, is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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